

## REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 24 will be pending.

Claims 3 – 7 were previously withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species of the invention. Furthermore, in the outstanding Office Action, recently submitted claims 12 and 20 – 24 have been characterized as being independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed (species I), for the reason that they are drawn to non-elected species II.

The Applicant agrees that recently submitted claims 12 and 20 – 24 are drawn to non-elected species II, and are therefore properly withdrawn.

The Office Action states that the prior-filed application (Provisional Application No.: 60/447,489 filed 14 February 2003), to which the Applicants claim priority, fails to provide adequate support or enablement in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 for one or more claims of this specification.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the provisional application provides a clear description to one of ordinary skill in the art who, by definition, has a working knowledge of the relevant literature. The securing of the anchor plate to the seat frame is described on page 1, lines 19 – 21 (... an end portion 10 of a tether anchor plate that extends across the back of a seat cushion and **is bolted to the frame using bolt holes 12** ...). The existence of first and second tension sensors providing discrete output signals to the control unit is described on page 1, line 30 (... **a pair of force sensing devices** ...) and Figure 1 illustrates an output lead. As a whole, the disclosure discusses an occupant



detection system which factors both applied force and tether strap tension. A control unit is inherently required for such a system. The placement of the anchor brackets at the juncture of the seat back and seat cushion is well known in the literature.

The Applicants request that the objection to the priority claim be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is objected to for misspelling of “straddling” on line 9. This has been corrected.

Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 9 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 2 and 9 have been amended to address these objections. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully disagree with certain inadequacy of description as described herein.

Claim 1 recites “*An apparatus for measuring a cinching tension on a child seat ... comprising: ... a **tension sensor** securing said first child seat anchor bracket to a first end of said anchor frame, and **means** securing said second child seat anchor bracket to a second end of said anchor frame, said **tension sensor** providing **an** output signal to said occupant detection system electronic control unit.*”.

Claim 2 recites “*The apparatus of claim 1, wherein **said tension sensor** includes ...*”.

Claim 9 recites “*The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said occupant detection system electronic control unit is operative to generate **an output signal** as a function of said occupant weight output signal and said tension sensor output signal.*”.



The forgoing amendments are believed to render the rejections moot. Accordingly, their withdrawal is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11 and 13 – 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skofljanec et al. (U.S. 6,419,199) in view of Miyagawa (U.S. 6,371,516).

The Applicants submit that neither Skofljanec et al. nor Miyagawa, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the present invention as described in independent claims 1 and 8. The present invention relates to apparatus which monitors the tension in tether straps employed to secure a child seat to a vehicle seat of the type employing an occupant weight pressure sensor. Outputs from the tether tension monitor and the occupant weight pressure sensor are combined in an electronic control unit to glean the actual weight of the occupant of the child seat. The devices described by Skofljanec et al. and Miyagawa are simply latch mechanisms for fixing a child seat to a vehicle seat. Neither require a *“tension sensor securing said first anchor bracket to a first end of said anchor frame ... (with) ... said tension sensor providing an output signal to said occupant detection system electronic control unit”*. The sensors in the applied art are merely position sensors, which are incapable of functioning as presently claimed.

Claims 2, 10, 11 and 13 – 19 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the independent claims and are each distinguishable from the applied art for the reasons set forth herein above.

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.



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## Conclusion

Applicant believes, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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